

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

FOREST HARVEST TRAILS AND LANDINGS

(Acre)
CODE 655

DEFINITION

Laying out, constructing and using forest harvest trails and landings.

PURPOSE

- Allow for removal of a forest product while minimizing on-site and off-site damage to resources.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On forested areas where harvest operations are scheduled.

CRITERIA

Timing and use of equipment will be commensurate with site and soil conditions to maintain site productivity and minimize soil erosion, displacement and compaction.

Harvest trails and landings will be of a size, gradient, number and location to accomplish tree removal and transport while minimizing adverse on-site and off-site impacts. Adverse impacts include, but are not limited to, accelerated erosion, riparian zone degradation, stream channel and streambank damage, or unacceptable damage to vegetation or habitat.

Slash, debris and vegetative material left on the site after harvesting must not present an unacceptable fire or pest hazard or interfere with the intended purpose.

Trails and landings shall be sufficiently revegetated to control erosion.

Comply with applicable laws and regulations, including Missouri Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Landings or Yarding Areas

Locate landings or yarding areas before developing skid roads and trails. Preferred sites include ridgetops, well-drained areas, areas close to an all-weather road, or sites close to the stand being harvested. The areas should have some slope to facilitate drainage. Construct road approaches to the area at a slight grade to divert road drainage from the landing area.

Do not locate landings within 200 feet of streams, ponds, lakes or wetlands.

Seed abandoned landing areas. Refer to CRITICAL AREA PLANTING (342).

Harvest Trails

keep grades as low as possible. Avoid streambeds and rocky areas,

Plan the location of trails to minimize the number of stream crossings. Remove any temporary bridges and culverts when logging activities are completed. Fords shall not be used in watersheds for domestic water supplies or on important fishing streams.

On harvest (skid) trails with erosion problems, install water breaks (bars). Refer to Missouri Watershed Protection Practices, Missouri Department of Conservation.

Water bars, rolling dips and other drainage measures for trails shall be of sufficient size, intervals and gradient for adequate drainage and erosion control. Start building water

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breaks at the end of the trail and work out to avoid damaging previously constructed water breaks. Adjust spacing to place water breaks at abrupt gradient changes. Protect the discharge area with stone, grass sod, brush, logs, or other materials that will reduce the velocity of the runoff and control scouring.

Seed abandoned harvest trail areas that would be susceptible to erosion. Refer to CRITICAL AREA PLANTING (342).

“Missouri Watershed Protection Practices: Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watersheds to Protect Streams” Missouri Department of Conservation; 1997.

CONSIDERATIONS

Assure safe ingress and egress to site.

Locate landings and trails to preserve the aesthetic quality.

Police landings and trails to remove refuse and garbage.

Trails may be closed for erosion control, safety and liability, and reduced maintenance costs.

Landings and trails may be used for wildlife food and cover plantings.

Soil survey woodland interpretations should be used as guidelines for directing practice activities.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Watercourses and water quality shall be protected during and after removal and transport of trees. Upon completion of harvest, landings and trails will be left in a stable condition.

Periodic inspections of landings and trails will be conducted with necessary repairs applied.

REFERENCES

Forestry Handbook, Second Edition: Society of American Foresters; Wiley Interscience Press; 1984.

NRCS MOFOTG
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